

# 1                    **The Change of Participants Mathematics**

## 2                    **Knowledge for Teaching in a Primary School Teacher**

### 3                    **Professional Learning Community**

4

5                    *[PLC] should effectively operate through sharing, teaching resources,*

6                    *professional dialogues, and collaboration to reduce pupil's learning*

7                    *achievement gap and make teaching close to their learning experiences*

8                    *through providing learning scaffoldings. This study adopts a qualitative*

9                    *research method to investigate the change of participants' Mathematics*

10                  *Knowledge for Teaching [MKT] of a primary school teacher PLC which has*

11                  *been running for three years. The three research subjects are experienced*

12                  *teachers and none mathematics or science majors. According to the*

13                  *framework of the MKT (Hill, Ball, & Schilling, 2008), the qualitative data*

14                  *which include PLC meeting videos, lesson observation sheets, interviews,*

15                  *and learning feedbacks, are analyzed and triangulated by the researchers*

16                  *and other mathematics educators. The results show that PLC may help*

17                  *teachers improve their MKT. At the beginning of the PLC, the discourse was*

18                  *mainly related to the teacher's Knowledge of Special Content Knowledge*

19                  *(SCK) and Knowledge of Content and Teaching (KCT). It reveals that the*

20                  *participants ought to be energized in SCK and KCT, and the PLC activities*

21                  *should be specially arranged in these two aspects. After the continuous*

22                  *professional dialogue and teaching practices, the teacher's KCC,*

23                  *Knowledge of Content and Student (KCS), and Special Content Knowledge*

24                  *(SCK) are improved most significantly, which also promotes the student*

25                  *learning achievements.*

26

27                  **Keywords:** *mathematics teaching, teacher professional development,*

28                  *teacher professional learning community[PLC], Mathematics Knowledge for*

29                  *Teaching [MKT]*

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## Introduction

The teachers should strengthen the connection with the students' knowledge and skills to enhance their learning. Mathematics education of teachers' professional knowledge follows Shulman's seminal idea about pedagogical content knowledge (PCK)(Shulman, 1986). Shulman introduced that pedagogical content knowledge inflects pupil's learning. PCK assumes teachers' ability to design effective instruction and skills to contribute students' learning (Hill, H., Ball, D. L., & Schilling, G. , 2008). Ball et al. (2008) have pioneered the consideration of Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching [MKT]. MKT is an analytical tool to measure teachers' mathematical knowledge. Many researchers considered MKT to study mathematics teachers' knowledge in order to improve their teaching and promote students' effectiveness. Most of the primary teachers in Taiwan do not major in mathematics or science, but they all have to teach mathematics even the teachers possess weak abilities in mathematics teaching. So they have to make plans to improve their teaching of mathematics. A teacher professional learning community [PLC] should effectively operate through sharing, teaching resources, professional dialogues, and collaboration to reduce pupil's learning achievement gap and make teaching close to their learning experiences through providing suitable learning scaffoldings. The powerful experience has happened in the class, through sharing, teaching reflection that can help teachers to improve their teaching and belief (Putnam & Borko, 2000). Many Taiwan teachers lack sound mathematical understanding and skills. Teaching as learning, in practice (Lave, 1996). They need to have more supports and resources for improving their teaching.

Recently, teacher PLC is a support community to help teachers grow in their teaching practice. The partners have the same demands in the PLC. When teachers have identified with PLC, they need to improve their curriculum, teaching and students' learning that is the correct teaching development (Stigler & Hiebert, 1997). Teachers need to know how promote students to achieve and what conditions are most likely to facilitate their mathematical learning. A teacher PLC should effectively operate through sharing, teaching resources to assess their teaching for understanding, students' ability and learning. According to the framework of the MKT (Hill, Ball, & Schilling, 2008), they would lead to greater understanding of the constructs of

mathematical knowledge for teaching. The study discussed teachers' knowledge using the MKT framework in the PLC. In the PLC, teachers prepare to preserve programs and share their teaching and resources to develop teachers' professional ability for achievement. The past study, research collected qualitative data, which include PLC meeting videos, lesson observation sheets, interviews, and learning feedbacks, are analyzed and triangulated by the researchers and other mathematics educators. The research question is as follows: What kind of teachers' change in Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching [MKT] do the members of a primary school teacher PLC have? We hope to get some suggestions for teachers how to facilitate their teaching effectively in the PLC.

## Literature Review

### **Mathematical knowledge for teaching [MKT]**

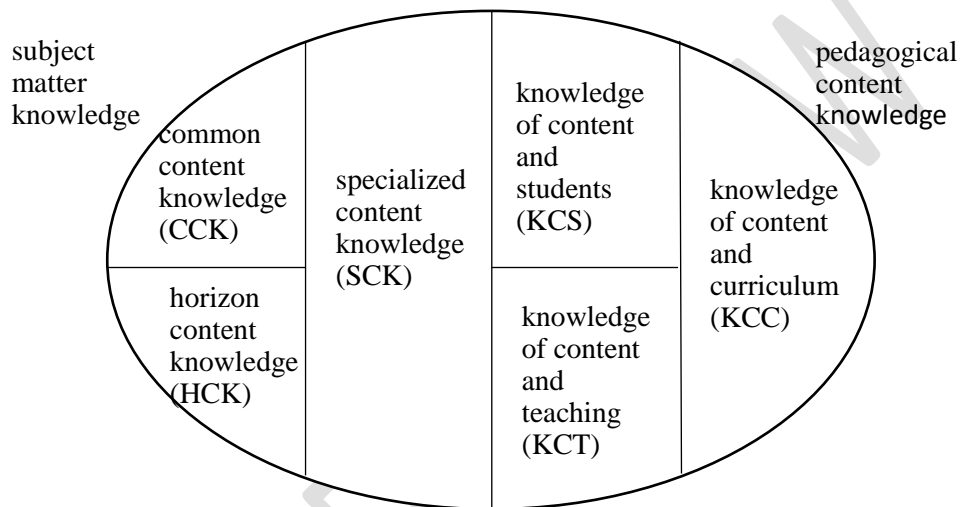
Shulman (1986, 1987) defines PCK with seven domains including content knowledge, knowledge of subject matter, knowledge of educational aims, goals and purposes, knowledge of other content, general pedagogical knowledge, knowledge of learners, and curriculum knowledge. PCK was explained in two dimensions. First, it characterizes teacher knowledge containing teachers' representation of ideas, the ability to help students connect mathematics ideas (e.g., Ball 1988; Stein et al. 1990). Second, PCK discusses a teacher's understanding to know student's common preconceptions and misconceptions in different ages and backgrounds. PCK is canonical on developing a deeper understanding of the teacher's content knowledge and pedagogical knowledge.

Ball et al. (2008, p.399) define MKT as a theory that encapsulates mathematical knowledge needed to perform the recurring tasks of teaching mathematics noting that they have adopted a flexible conception of "needs" that allows for the perspective, habits of mind, and sensibilities that matter for the effective teaching of the content.

"Mathematics Knowledge for Teaching" [MKT] assesses the knowledge by teachers in their teaching process, which includes pedagogical content knowledge and subject matter knowledge in the construct of mathematical knowledge for teaching (Hill et al. 2007) That is, knowledge of how making

mathematical understanding of students and knowledge of students' conception and misconceptions (Shulman 1986). The relationship between pedagogical content knowledge and subject matter knowledge can be seen in Figure 1. The concept of MKT appears by studying records in mathematics teaching, and identifying teachers' mathematical knowledge, reasoning, and insight (Ball and Bass 2003a; Ball et al. 2005).

*Figure 1. Domain map for Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching (Ball, et al., 2008)*



Loughran, Mulhall, and Berry (2012) explain that PCK builds on teachers' personal experiences and conceptions- particular expertise with individual idiosyncrasies and important differences that are influenced by the teaching experience, content, and context. Thames, Sleep, Bass, and Bll (2008) defined MKT as a practice-based theory that encapsulates the mathematical knowledge needed to perform the recurrent tasks of teaching mathematics. There are six portions of the oval that is a proposed standard of MKT. The right side associates with Shulman's proposed PCK that contains KCS, KCT and KCC. KCS is content knowledge intertwined with knowledge of how students think about, know, learn mathematical knowledge content. The teachers can be diagnosed with students' errors as a partial or a complete explanation for selecting their answer for mathematical reasoning (Hill et al., 2008). KCS is the teacher's ability to know how making better design a lesson and foresee possible alternative conceptions of students and plan how to help them go past those conceptions requires substantial knowledge of the students. Teachers

know what works for students and support the development of their understanding (Chua, 2018). KCT is the knowledge of content and teaching that is teaching design in practices and combines knowing about students and mathematics. KCT for proof includes strategies of representing, explaining, or connecting proof ideas and responding to students' contributions (Leaaieg, K.2016). KCC is the knowledge of content and curriculum that describes close Shulman's conception of curriculum knowledge. The left side is the subject matter knowledge that is divided into common content knowledge (CCK), specialized content knowledge (SCK), and horizon content knowledge (HCK). CCK is intrinsically defined as the mathematical knowledge and skill that is used in many other professions or occupations for mathematics. CCK is meaning pure mathematical knowledge (Carrillo, et al., 2011). CCK includes recognizing proof through which mathematical knowledge is verified, established and communicated (Leaaieg, K.2016). SCK allows teachers to work in particular teaching tasks, including how to accurately represent mathematical ideas, provide mathematical explanations for common rules, procedures, examine and understand unusual solution methods to problems (Ball et al., 2005). HCK means an awareness of the relationship between mathematics topics and curriculum. The MKT measures teachers' ability to use mathematical knowledge in practice and teaching processes. The six domains of the MKT are important tools that allow scholars to study factors of how various professional development activities can help develop it. The research on MKT is used to provide a powerful tool for evaluating knowledge used by mathematics teachers in their practice (ETS Praxis, 2011).

### **Professional Learning Community**

The PLC means the core task of formal education that is deep learning, not teaching (DuFour, 2004; Hargreaves, 2007). Stoll et al. (2006, p. 5) define the PLC is an inclusive group of people, motivated by a shared learning vision, supporting and working with each other, finding ways, inside and outside their direct community, examining on their practice and together learning new and better approaches that will enhance all pupils' learning". Kruse, Louis, and Bryk (1995) consider characters of the PLC that include: (1) Reflective dialogue that helps teachers improve and promote teaching discussion. (2)

1 Focus on student learning that is a goal of PLC's activities to improve students'  
 2 learning. (3) Interaction among teachers or deprivation of practice that can  
 3 engage teachers in sharing ideas, learning and helping. (4) Collaboration that is  
 4 happening when teachers share their teaching strategies, skills and growth. (5)  
 5 Shared values and norms: partners reach a consensus for mission, value and  
 6 specifications to build their professional behavior. Teachers need appropriate  
 7 environments for their professional growth (Hord, 1997; 2004). PLCs should  
 8 be a place where the principal and teachers are all learners and distributed  
 9 leadership positively (Hargreaves & Fink, 2006). Teachers have the  
 10 responsibility to promote their teaching skills and students' achievement. The  
 11 shared personal practice contributes to the development of teachers'  
 12 professional learning and supports a professional learning community (Hord,  
 13 1997; Pickering, Daly & Pachler, 2007). To achieve this shared purpose,  
 14 participants are encouraged to be involved in the process of developing a clear  
 15 vision how their collaboration must contribute to their students' learning and  
 16 effective teaching. They build collective leadership and commitments that  
 17 clarify the responsibility of teacher's contributions to their teaching and  
 18 student's learning. Stylianides (2007) suggests that teachers' strong  
 19 mathematical knowledge for teaching proof be able to structure opportunities  
 20 through arguments and proofs for their students. In order to help teachers  
 21 improve their weak teaching skills and mathematical knowledge understanding.  
 22 As through the PLC's operation, teachers need to construct mathematical  
 23 proofs. The PLC is a continuous improvement process and makes teacher keep  
 24 on growing teaching. Teachers are not lonely again because partinars will help  
 25 each other and solve teaching problems in the classroom.

26 The broadening reaserch on PLC is used to provide more information  
 27 about making MKT a powerful tool for evaluating teachers' mathematical  
 28 knowledge. The element of MKT framework specializes in the work of  
 29 teaching practices. The MKT measure that represents classroom, school  
 30 process and teachers' ability to use mathematical knowledge in the classroom  
 31 practice (University of Michigan, 2008). The MKT framework may be  
 32 described in three ways: (1) as open-ended discussion which allow for the  
 33 exploration of teachers' reasoning about mathematics and students' thinking;  
 34 (2) as materials that are used to inform teachers' professional development; (3)  
 35 as examples of what the mathematical knowledge teacher have to use in  
 36 teaching (Fauskanger, Jakobsen, Mosvold, & Bjuland, 2012). However, there

has been little research focused on examining how teachers' MKT is operationalized in the PLC.

### Methodology

The study utilized a qualitative study design that described three teachers' knowledge of MKT in the PLC for the last three years. The research subjects were three primary school teachers in Taiwan. Table 1 presents their background information and pseudonyms. All subject teachers earned Master's degree, but no one majored in mathematics or science. Their teaching experiences are ranged from 15 to 18 years. The teacher PLC had operated for three years while a professor was invited to guide partners improving their teaching. The propose of this study discussed, participants in the PLC what teachers' knowledge of MKT for last 3 years. Subject teachers had dialogue and discussion for teaching 6~8 times and choose teach a lesson every semester. The study was designed to capture a set of qualitative of teachers' mathematics knowledge for interviews, lesson observation sheets, reflection and teaching feedbacks.

*Table 1. Background Information of Participants*

Pseudonyms	Gender	Education	Background	Teaching Subject	Teaching Years
AT	Female	M.Ed.	D.P.E	Chinese, Mathematics	18
BT	Female	M.Ed.	Teacher class	Chinese, Mathematics	17
CT	Female	C.A.C.S.	Finance	Chinese, Mathematics	15

### Data Collection

Shulman (1986) proposes that teaching requires unique subject-matter-related knowledge, classroom observation became a primary method used to explore this idea. Because the study have discussed the

1 participants' professional development for the last three years. The data  
 2 sources included PLC meeting videos, lesson observation sheets, interviews,  
 3 and teaching feedback, are analyzed and triangulated by the researchers and  
 4 other mathematics educators. Before teaching, each teacher in the PLC needs  
 5 to interview lesson design ideas, how to teach and assess students' learning.  
 6 Other teachers shared their teaching, skills and resources, advised the teacher  
 7 more ideas to teach. PLC meeting and classroom observation were video  
 8 recording and transcribed verbatim. Semi-structure interview is widely used in  
 9 qualitative research. All data can provide limited insight into teachers' MKT,  
 10 four different types of semi-structured interviews were executed to understand  
 11 what teachers know and reasons for their teaching actions: (1) background  
 12 interview- participants ask questions related to their teaching backgrounds,  
 13 teaching design and mathematical knowledge; (2) pre-observation  
 14 interview-focus on teachers' planning of the lesson to be observed; (3) post-  
 15 observation interview-understand each teacher's reflection on the lesson; (4)  
 16 teaching feedbacks-the participants revisit the lesson and issue the reasons for  
 17 their teaching decisions and process. The pre-observation and post- observation  
 18 interviews are carried out in combination with each observation.

19

## 20 **Data Analysis**

21

22 In order to capture the nature and dynamic process of the MKT  
 23 components in the PLC for the last three years, data were analyzed through two  
 24 approaches: (1) in-depth analysis of the explicit MKT (Thames, Sleep, Bass,  
 25 and Bll, 2008); (2) analysis of the MKT elements of teachers' change process.  
 26 Gencturk (2012) indicates the teachers' MKT improved and increased  
 27 efficiently change in the quality of their interview, lesson design, mathematical  
 28 agenda, task choices, and classroom situation. According to the analysis of  
 29 interview, observation and PLC meeting data that reveal teachers' beliefs,  
 30 mathematical knowledge, teaching skills, and instructional practices. In-depth  
 31 analysis of explicit MKT, we first identified the documents from video  
 32 recording and interview, a detailed description of MKT what the teacher did  
 33 and how many times the MKT components appear. The data were used to  
 34 answer the first research question. Then we analyze the MKT elements of  
 35 teachers' change process in the PLC for the last three years. This method  
 36 assesses the relative extent to which teachers talk about different aspects of the



MKT framework within each teacher's data set. In order to integrate the process of the MKT components in a clear way, we adopt an enumerative approach through the in-depth analysis of the explicit MKT (LeCompte & Preissle, 1993). Every MKT component was identified in all of the six portions that the mathematical knowledge needed to perform the recurrent tasks of teaching mathematics. The data were coded by two authors to establish the reliability of parsing MKT coding. Inter-rater reliability was achieved that all agreements were resolved through discussion. This analysis provided direction for further qualitative analysis and supported the identification of the topic through the PLC activities.

## Results

### Identification of the MKT domain classification

Having profiled the theoretical and empirical basis for MKT, we developed the notion further for the proposed measurement. Table 2 shows one to three items from the MKT six domains that each item was defined (Hill et al. 2008, Ball et al. 2008). Throughout the early conceptualization of these items that we discussed how to classify the MKT items. We adopted the classification to measure a teacher's development work and a basis for future discussions about the nature of the teacher's knowledge (Hill et al. 2008). Knowledge of content and students (KCS) combines knowing about students and mathematics. When the teacher chooses the examples, he needs to predict students' ability and assign the task, whether they will find it easy or hard. In order to analyze the teachers' KCS, we define that teachers can intertwine with knowledge of how students think about, know, learn mathematical knowledge content (KCS-1) and foresee possible alternative conceptions of students (KCS-2). Knowledge of content and teaching (KCT) combines about teaching and mathematics. Teachers design the mathematical task that requires mathematical knowledge for sequence particular content for instruction and evaluate the representations used to teach specific idea and identify different methods and procedures. KCT separate the third components: KCT-1 means the teacher decides begin of teaching and learning sequence, KCT-2 evaluates the quality of the mathematical presentation, and KCT-3 identify different

1 mathematical solution. KCC-1 means that teacher connect the knowledge of  
 2 content and curriculum. The common content knowledge (CCK) define it as  
 3 the mathematical knowledge and skills when the teacher writes on the board  
 4 that he need to use correctly terms and notations. From our data as shown in  
 5 Table 2, we indicate that CCK-1 means pure mathematical knowledge and  
 6 CCK-2 diagnose students' wrong answer. SCK is the mathematical knowledge  
 7 and skills unique to teach. The teacher look for the students' error pattern and  
 8 misconceptions. So SCK-1 is used to analyze students' misconceptions and  
 9 SCK-2 accurately represent mathematical ideas and provide mathematical  
 10 explanations for common rules. HCK means an awareness of the relationship  
 11 in mathematics topics and curriculum.

12

13 *Table 2. MKT's Domain Classification*

MKT		domain	items	content
PCK	KCS	KCS-1	Intertwine with knowledge of how students think about, know, learn mathematical knowledge content	
		KCS-2	Foresee possible alternative conceptions of students	
	KCT	KCT-1	Decide begin of teaching and learning sequence	
		KCT-2	Evaluate the quality of the mathematical presentation	
		KCT-3	Identify different mathematical solution	
	KCC	KCC-1	Connect the knowledge of content and curriculum	
SMK	CCK	CCK-1	Pure mathematical knowledge	
		CCK-2	Diagnose students' wrong answer	
	SCK	SCK-1	Analyze students' misconceptions	
		SCK-2	Accurately represent mathematical ideas and provide mathematical explanations for common rules	
	HCK	HCK-1	Relationship in mathematics topics and curriculum	

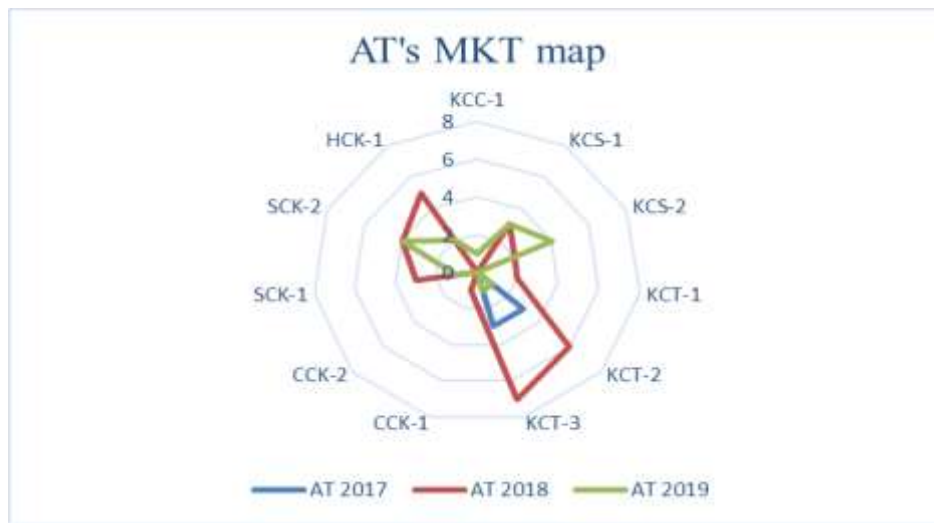
14 Source: Hill et al. 2008.

Our analysis of the MKT map expressed in the radar chart that revealed the participant's MKT for the last three year and process. The MKT map showed the MKT's domain classification that had a clear vision of the participants. The teachers' MKT map presented their professional development in the PLC that were summarized in Figures 2 to 4. Each teacher's MKT was composed of the frequency for three years. Each item was evident in the subsequent data that we could find out each teacher's teaching change process in the PLC. Even each teacher's MKT map differed for their teaching and participation in the PLC. We could realize the teachers keep on change through the PLC's sharing and diagnose teaching skills, mathematical knowledge to promote individual teacher's professional development. Besides, we could diagnose the teachers' weak ability which items could help them to improve their teaching. The analysis was presented to the participants who could realize how to promote their mathematics teaching and correct mathematical misconceptions.

#### **Collectiing and using data to prove our classification**

The study collected three participants in the PLC in order to study teachers' mathematical teaching. We argued the six domains of the MKT that could help us to discuss teachers' mathematical knowledge and teaching skills. All data proved whether teachers' growth in our measure is sensitive to their teaching about how students learn mathematics. In the PLC, teachers examined students' computational work for errors, conceptions, explained those errors, and discussed how they remedy them in teaching. They described which problems students used to solve various types of problems and viewed in students solving problems and examined their work.

1 *Figure 2. AT's MKT Map during the Years 2017-2019*



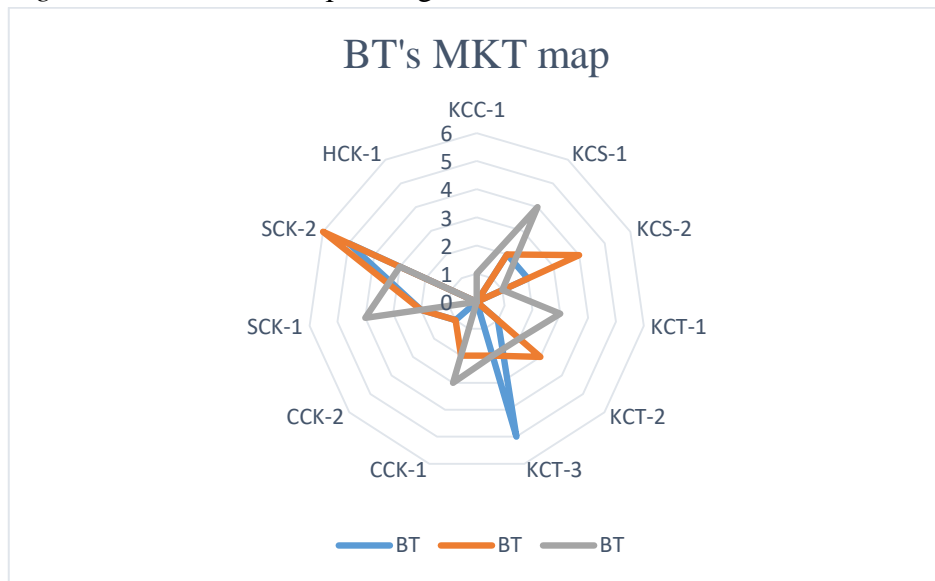
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4 At is a grades 1-2 teacher. At the beginning of the PLC, AT's data was  
5 more focused on KCT-2 and KCT-3. KCT is the knowledge of content and  
6 teaching that is teaching design in practices and combines knowing about  
7 students and mathematics. In 2018, she was aware of her teaching insufficient  
8 that she evaluated the quality of the mathematical presentation (KCT-2),  
9 identified different mathematical solutions (KCT-3), analyzed students'  
10 misconceptions (SCK-1), accurately represented mathematical ideas and  
11 provided mathematical explanations for common rules (SCK-2) and  
12 relationship in mathematics topics and curriculum (HCK). AT has a clear  
13 vision of the PLC lens that helped her know how to improve her teaching. In  
14 the third year, AT focused on intertwining with knowledge of how students  
15 think about, know, learn mathematical knowledge content (KCS-1), foresee  
16 possible alternative conceptions of students (KCS-2) and accurately  
17 represented mathematical ideas and provide mathematical explanations for  
18 common rules.

19 In AT's reflection, because she had mathematics problems in practice, she  
20 would find out solutions to help students. AT tried to use more mathematical  
21 presentations in practice and students were engaged in activities in which they  
22 made the observation, counting activity, problem posing and compared those  
23 results with mathematical conceptions. For example, AT taught the topic of  
24 "time" using the real clock and calendar that help the students to realize the  
25 conception of "time". In order to make the students mathematical  
26 understanding of geometry, AT designed to understand the meaning of

1 operations that illustrated in a three-layer box through stacking blocks,  
2 stratification and drawing out the picture in their vision. We discussed her  
3 teaching progress and students' performance that the result was shown. Most  
4 students could draw each layer box and counted the total box that could help  
5 the students understand which part of the layer box was not seen. Some  
6 students cut different directions in longitudinal sections or cross-sections, but  
7 they could find out the same results. The results showed the proofs for KCT-2,  
8 KCT-3. Evidence of KCT often took the form of teachers describing specific  
9 teaching strategies. AT shared her teaching idea that could make students  
10 understanding how to find out the invisible box and try to count every box in  
11 the second graders. Those proofs of KCS were shown. AT would like to  
12 challenge when she had a difficult task. For example, she shared her ideas in  
13 which they measured the classroom's window length in the first grade,  
14 explanation by students what they thought and measurement methods.  
15 Evidence of AT focused on intertwine with knowledge of how students think  
16 about, know, learn mathematical knowledge content (KCS-1), foresee possible  
17 alternative conceptions of students (KCS-2) and accurately represented  
18 mathematical ideas and provide mathematical explanations for common rules.  
19 One student could not find out the invisible box that AT used stacking blocks  
20 to help her to see and understand how many boxes in this figure. These  
21 discussions elicited both CCK-2 and SCK-1. In the PLC, she discussed the  
22 elements of mathematical teaching ideas, skills and students' representation  
23 made visible.

24 BT was a grades 4~6 teacher. She had positive attitude toward  
25 participating in the PLC. She would like to share her mathematical teaching  
26 idea and students' misconceptions to help her solve mathematical teaching  
27 problems. BT used more representations in mathematical teaching.  
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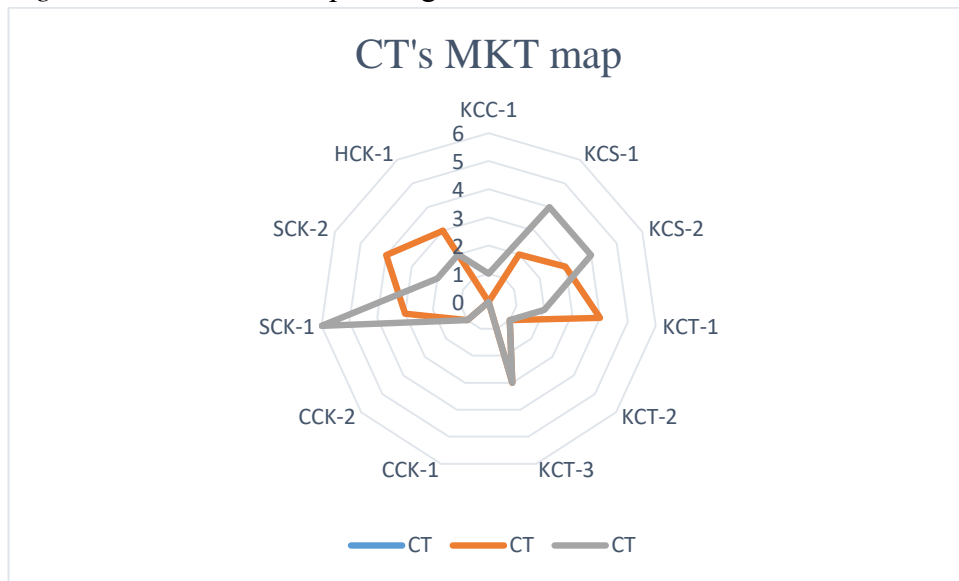
1 *Figure 3. BT's MKT Map during the Years 2017-2019*



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4 In 2017, BT showed SCK-2, KCT-3, KCS-1 and KCS-2. Before teaching,  
5 BT used to consider her students' mathematical conceptions to design  
6 curriculum and teaching materials. That matches SCK-2. In the second year,  
7 BT invested continuously in foreseeing possible alternative conceptions of  
8 students (KCS-2), accurately represent mathematical ideas and provided  
9 mathematical explanations for common rules (SCK-2) and evaluated the  
10 quality of the mathematical presentation (KCT-2). BT improved her quality of  
11 teaching and her students realized. The students reflected BT's improvement of  
12 teaching skills and understood the students' misconceptions and  
13 preconceptions. BT's teaching made the students enjoy mathematical learning  
14 and promoted their achievement for three years. This conclusion encouraged  
15 participants invest in the PLC's activities on their initiative. They realized that  
16 teachers must be to understand the problems in students' learning to improve  
17 teaching.

18

1 *Figure 4. CT's MKT Map during the Years 2017-2019*



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3  
4 CT was mobilized to this school in 2018, hence she just had two years in  
5 the PLC. CT effectively has invested in sharing her teaching, correct  
6 mathematics errors and richness of the mathematics. CT's map (Figure 4)  
7 revealed that CT paid attention to accurately represent mathematical ideas and  
8 provided mathematical explanations with common rules (SCK-2), analyzed  
9 students' misconceptions (SCK-1), decided to begin teaching and learning  
10 sequence (KCT-1), evaluated the quality of the mathematical presentation  
11 (KCT-2) and relationship in mathematics topics and curriculum (HCK) in 2018.  
12 CT showed more presentations of SCK-1, KCS-1, KCS-2, KCT-3 that revealed  
13 CT's understanding of mathematics teaching and willingness to change her  
14 teaching mind to prove the teaching practices. SCK-1 had the most amount of  
15 the MKT elements. For example, CT analyzed students' misconceptions in  
16 counting as shown below: students counted three numbers forward and  
17 backward: 20, □ 22. Someone could not find out □ what the number is. CT  
18 used number cards to help the first graders understand counting number forward  
19 and backward. The proof showed her KCT-1. CT tried to analyze students'  
20 misconceptions (SCK-1) and use different mathematical solutions (KCT-3) to  
21 clear students' misconceptions. Those helped her identify correct mathematical  
22 knowledge. Before teaching, CT would intertwine with knowledge of how  
23 students think about, know, learn mathematical knowledge content (KCS-1)  
24 and foresee possible alternative conceptions of students (KCS-2). She prepared

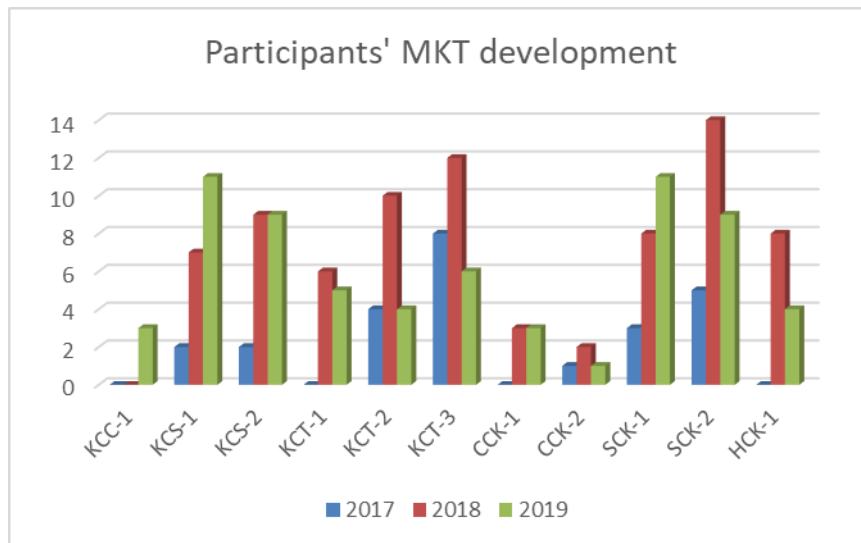
1 to understand students' mathematical knowledge background to choose her  
 2 teaching beginning and curriculum. Even CT only had participated in the PLC  
 3 for two years, she kept moving on developing her teacher professional growth  
 4 and changing her mind to improve mathematical teaching.

5 In teaching progress, we found that teacher's MKT was determined by  
 6 their mathematical knowledge and students' learning. This present study also  
 7 empirically supported the assertions by showing those three teachers. As  
 8 shown in Figures 2 to 4, AT, BT, CT demonstrated a more coherently  
 9 structured MKT map for three years. According to Figure 5, all of the items of  
 10 participants' MKT development were increased. Evidenced in codes for PLC  
 11 meetings, classroom teaching and learning, occurred in HCK-1, SCK-1-2,  
 12 KCT-1-3, and KCS-1-2. The reason the teachers shared their mathematical  
 13 problems in the PLC, the expert teacher and professor had advises and  
 14 resources to help them, they accepted their suggestions then tried those  
 15 strategies in teaching later. After they tried and tested, the suggestions were  
 16 proved to be effective. The teachers showed their reflections and the students  
 17 made progress. The professor and expert teacher encouraged the participants  
 18 to keep on trying different mathematical knowledge and teaching skills. Figure  
 19 4 showed the participants' MKT development for three years. At the beginning  
 20 of the PLC, the discourse was mainly related to SCK-1, SCK-2, KCT-2,  
 21 KCT-3 and CCK-1. It reveals that the participants ought to be energized in  
 22 SCK, KCT, CCK and the PLC activities should be specially arranged in these  
 23 aspects. After the continuous professional dialogue and teaching practices, the  
 24 teacher's KCC-1, KCS-1-2, KCT-1-3, SCK-1-2, HCK-1 are improved most  
 25 significantly, which also promotes the change of the teachers' teaching skills  
 26 and student learning achievements. It was contributed to the teacher  
 27 professional development.

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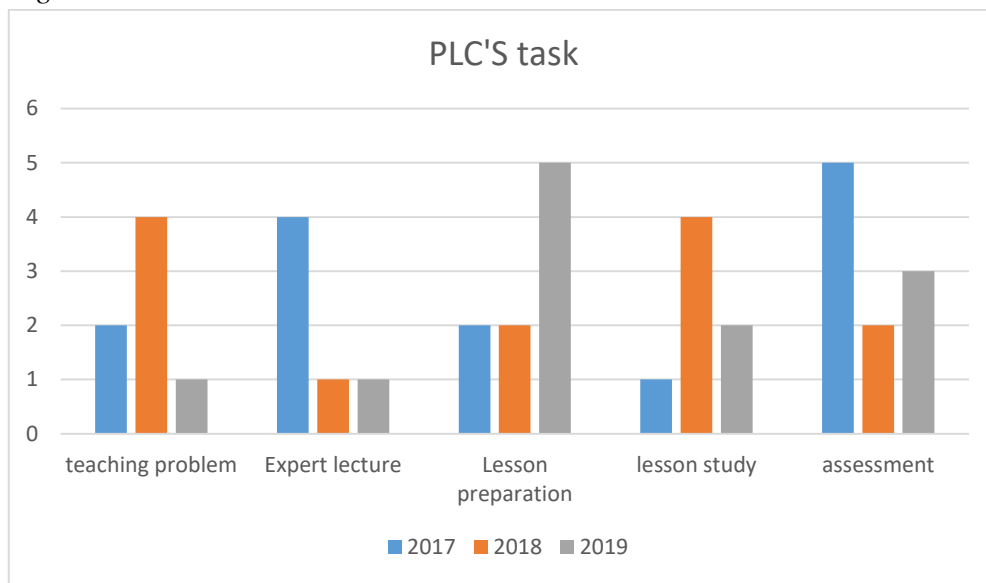


1 *Figure 5. Participants' MKT Development*



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4 As shown in Figure 6, there were five tasks in the PLC, the tasks included  
5 teaching problem, expert lecture, lesson preparation, the lesson study and  
6 assessment. Because MKT's framework contains the teachers' teaching idea  
7 and mathematical knowledge, so assessment is considered in this study. At the  
8 beginning of the PLC, the professor and expert teacher provided expert lectures  
9 to rich the teachers' mathematical knowledge and backgrounds. The teachers'  
10 mathematical foundations would be set up, because they did not major in  
11 science or mathematics. Then the teachers revealed their mathematical  
12 problems in the classroom, professor and expert teacher diagnosed the  
13 mathematical errors, corrected mathematical knowledge and presented teaching  
14 skills to help the participants to understand how to teach. The participants tried  
15 the new methods and correct their mathematical knowledge in practice. Their  
16 students were making more progress and like mathematics more. The  
17 researchers have used MKT framework to assess the teachers' mathematical  
18 knowledge during classroom teaching and develop in teacher preparation  
19 programs (Stylianindes & Ball, 2008; Steele & Rogers, 2012; Stylianindes  
20 2009). The former study was empirically grounded in PLC and investigated the  
21 MKT of proof (Lesseig, 2016).

22

1 *Figure 6. PLC's Task*

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4 In order to verify the teachers' MKT development, we through the lesson  
5 preparation and the lesson study to understand the teacher's idea and teaching  
6 skills. At the beginning of the semester, all participants shared their lesson  
7 preparations, curriculum, and mathematical skills. These tasks could help  
8 teachers sort out their mathematical knowledge, teaching progress and evaluate  
9 students' learning tools. Lesson study is a common method in promoting  
10 teacher professional development. Through lesson study, it will prove the  
11 effectiveness of teachers' lesson design, teaching and students' learning. More  
12 empirical studies in the PLC are needed to understand mathematical teaching  
13 orientations concerning MKT components and the whole construct of MKT in  
14 the context of teaching practice. Our PLC tasks provided efficient strategies to  
15 promote teachers' professional development.

## 16 17 Discussion

18  
19 This study adopts a qualitative research method to investigate the change  
20 of participants' MKT of a primary school teacher PLC. The results show that  
21 PLC may help teachers improve their MKT. Shulman introduced that  
22 pedagogical content knowledge inflect pupil's learning. PCK assume teachers'  
23 ability to design effective instruction and skills to contribute to students'  
24 learning (Hill, Ball, & Schilling, 2008). Utilizing the in-depth discourse within  
25 the PLC meetings, collaborative lesson preparation, peer lesson observation,

and analyzing exam items, the participants could transfer, the sharing resources to their own teaching practices, and manage to learn actively. In Taiwan, many teachers are not majoring in science and mathematics. They used to use Ebook by the curriculum vendor to teach mathematics. Teachers have weak abilities in lesson design and mathematical knowledge. In order to promote teachers' efficient ations in mathematical teaching, we adopted the tasks including teaching problem, expert lecture, lesson preparation, lesson study and assessment. At the beginning of the PLC, the discourse was mainly related to the teacher's Knowledge of Content and Curriculum (KCC) and Knowledge of Content and Teaching (KCT). It reveals that the participants ought to be energized in KCC and KCT, and the PLC activities should be specially arranged in these two aspects. After the continuous professional dialogue and teaching practices, the teacher's KCC, Knowledge of Content and Student (KCS), and Special Content Knowledge (SCK) are improved most significantly, which also promote the student learning achievements. This suggestion has been supported by other empirical studies (e.g., Hill, Ball, & Schilling, 2008). The most useful forms of representation of those ideas, the most powerful analogies, illustrations, examples, explanations, and demonstrations (Shulman, 1986b, p. 7). As shown in BT's MKT map, she held a strong didactic direction to support Shulman's study. In this issue, the MKT map approach was developed that could explore various research questions about MKT. The MKT map can be used as a reflection tool to identify which components they need to improve for teaching more effectively. Through the PLC, teachers have more partners to share their teaching idea and solve their mathematical teaching problems practice. We have more data to realize teachers' MKT map that can explore more directly concerning mathematical knowledge domains. The result can suggest the orientations to the participants' professional development.

## Conclusions

From the result of our analysis of the MKT map, we have several conclusions. First, PLC is helpful for teachers to promote their teaching. Through the PLC, teachers were diagnosed by other participants, they focused on teaching skills and correctly mathematical knowledge to help them solve problems in practice. Second, SCK-2 was a max item that reveals the

1 participants would like to accurately represent mathematical ideas and provide  
 2 mathematical explanations for common rules. Teachers would like to change  
 3 their minds on mathematics teaching and discuss how to achieve effective  
 4 teaching, even not in the PLC period that shows collaboration happening to  
 5 participants. Third, we discuss three teachers participating in the PLC for three  
 6 years. If there are more participants in the PLC, they share the same vision to  
 7 improve mathematical teaching that can elevate other primary school teachers.  
 8 If the research methods can explore more PLC, it must be help for more  
 9 teachers in teaching mathematics. Forth, the PLC operation will be work that  
 10 suggests participants including professors or professional except teachers. The  
 11 professor can provide more resources, mathematical knowledge and theories to  
 12 help other participants' development. In summary, our study seggests MKT  
 13 map prove theoretically productive and empirical studies to help more  
 14 mathematics teachers. The result informs our understanding of the MKT map  
 15 in practice and influence teacher professional development in the PLC.

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